



**State of Louisiana**  
Division of Administration  
**Office of Community Development**  
**Disaster Recovery Unit**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

Sept. 9, 2015

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**State Accepting Public Comments on Funding for Isaac-Recovery  
Economic Development Program in St. John the Baptist Parish**

BATON ROUGE – The State of Louisiana is accepting public comments on a Partial Action Plan that allocates \$4.3 million to St. John the Baptist Parish for the creation of a Small Business Grant and Loan program in response to Hurricane Isaac. This partial action plan also obligates the first \$1 million of those funds so St. John the Baptist officials can begin program activities.

As a result of Hurricane Isaac, the state estimates more than \$11 million in Isaac-related business damages occurred in St. John the Baptist Parish, with the highest levels of estimated damage impacting small business owners, commercial complexes, and hotels.

Using funding allocated to the state, the parish seeks to use the funds in the proposed program to provide grants, forgivable loans and/or loan packages and technical assistance to businesses that were impacted by the storm. This will address economic development unmet needs and expand economic opportunities, particularly for persons of low-to-moderate income.

Partial Action Plan 6 allocates \$4,334,800 of the parish's total funding of \$32,674,000 to create the new program that is necessary to address eligible businesses' unmet recovery and economic revitalization needs in the parish due to the 2012 storm.

The program will be administered by South Central Planning and Development Commission, a subrecipient to St. John the Baptist Parish. The parish will provide oversight of the program. The state Office of Community Development's Disaster Recovery Unit will monitor the program and will provide regulatory and programmatic guidance and technical assistance to the parish.

"I encourage residents and business owners to review the proposed grant and loan program for businesses who suffered damages as a result of Hurricane Isaac and to take the opportunity to provide comments," said St. John the Baptist Parish President Natalie Robottom.

“Small businesses are the key to our economic vitality and this program will provide much needed assistance toward our recovery and revitalization efforts,” she added.

Citizens, community leaders and elected officials can access the plan and submit comments online by visiting [http://www.doa.la.gov/Pages/ocd-dru/Action\\_Plans.aspx](http://www.doa.la.gov/Pages/ocd-dru/Action_Plans.aspx) and opening “Isaac Partial Action Plan 6”. A copy of the plan can be requested by calling (225) 219-9600.

The formal public comment period for Partial Action Plan 6 begins today, Sept. 9, 2015, and runs until 5 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 22, 2015. After accepting public comments, the state will submit the plan to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for final federal approval. Members of the public can submit comments several ways:

Using the online form at [http://www.doa.la.gov/Pages/ocd-dru/Action\\_Plans.aspx](http://www.doa.la.gov/Pages/ocd-dru/Action_Plans.aspx) ;

- Emailing them to [ocd@la.gov](mailto:ocd@la.gov);
- Mailing them to Disaster Recovery Unit, P.O. Box 94095, 70804-9095, Attn: Janice Lovett; or
- Faxing them to the attention of Janice Lovett at (225) 219-9605.

The funds are part of the \$66.4 million in Community Development Block Grant dollars that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development allocated to the State of Louisiana for recovery from Hurricane Isaac. The City of New Orleans, Jefferson Parish and St. Tammany Parish all received separate, individual allocations from HUD. Of the \$66.4 million, the state has allocated \$32.7 million to St. John the Baptist Parish and \$16.9 million to Plaquemines Parish for their Hurricane Isaac recovery efforts.

*The Disaster Recovery Unit within the Office of Community Development is dedicated to helping Louisiana's citizens recover from hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Gustav, Ike and Isaac. As the state's lead for long-term disaster recovery, OCD-DRU manages the most extensive rebuilding effort in American history, working closely with local, state and federal partners to ensure that Louisiana recovers safer, stronger and smarter than before.*

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